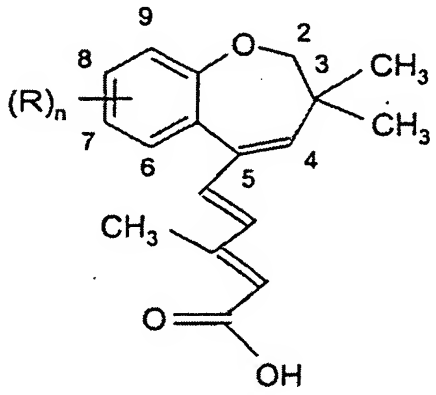
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Metastable form of the compounds of the formula I:



I

in which

n represents 0, 1 or 2 ;

and the radicals R, which may be identical or different, are alkyl or alkoxy groups, or halogen atoms.

2. (Original) Metastable form according to Claim 1, of a compound of the formula I in which n represents 1 and R, in position 7, represents methoxy, the said metastable form being characterised by a melting point of 151 to 153°C as measured by differential thermal analysis by scanning between 40 and 180°C at a rate of 10°C/minute, and an X-ray diffraction spectrum defined by the absorption wavelengths in Table I below:

No.	**Absorption wavelength (cm-1)**	**Percentage** of transmission (%)	Intensity
1	620.27	0.660	m
2	844.38	0.892	w
3	679.11	0.865	w
4	709.98	0.568	m

5	730.24	0.907	w
6	736.03	0.891	w
7	745.67	0.849	w
8	761.11	0.843	w
9	814.16	0.518	m
10	839.24	0.683	m ;
11	849.85	0.889	w
12	869.15	0.660	m
13	878.79	0.466	s
14	899.05	0.936	w
15	925.10	0.755	m
16	951.14	0.740	m
17	966.58	0.688	m
18	973.33	0.587	m
19	987.80	0.815	w
20	1028.31	0.641	m
21	1046.64	0.517	m
22	1052.43	0.562	m
23	1064.97	0.859	w
24	1128.64	0.825	w
25	1168.19	0.797	w
26	1190.37	0.422	s
27	1199.06	0.408	s
28	1212.56	0.441	s
29	1251.15	0.442	s
30	1270.44	0.254	s
31	1295.52	0.659	m
32	1318.67	0.825	w
33	1355.33	0.769	w

34	1391.98	0.872	w
35	1393.91	0.872	w
36	1413.21	0.651	m
37	1432.50	0.806	w
38	1464.33	0.743	m
39	1494.24	0.511	m
40	1572.37	0.707	m
41	1599.38	0.284	s
42	1623.50	0.810	w
43	1663.05	0.650	m
44	1676.55	0.458	s
45	2837.99	0.863	w
46	2871.75	0.847	w
47	2934.45	0.819	w
48	2960.50	0.818	w
49	3018.38	0.898	w

in which

w means weak intensity,

s means strong intensity,

and m means medium

intensity.

3. (Currently Amended) Process for obtaining the metastable form of a compound of the formula I according to claim 1 ~~either of Claims 1 and 2~~, comprising the steps consisting in:

a) salifying the corresponding stable form of the compound of the formula I by forming a carboxylic acid salt;

b) acidifying an aqueous solution of the salt obtained after step a) until precipitation of the carboxylic acid in its metastable form is obtained.

4. (Original) Process according to Claim 3, characterised in that in step a), a sodium or potassium salt is formed.

5. (Original) Process according to Claim 3, characterised in that in step a), the stable form of the compound of the formula I is reacted with potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.

6. (Original) Process according to Claim 3, characterised in that in step a), the process is performed in aqueous medium, the stable form of the compound of the formula I initially being in suspension in water.

7. (Original) Process according to Claim 3, characterised in that in step b), the acidification is performed by the action of hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid.

8. (Original) Process according to Claim 6, characterised in that the acidification in step b) is performed by adding hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid to the reaction medium.

9. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3 to 8~~, characterised in that the acid concentration in step b) ranges between 0.05 M and 10 M and preferably between 0.1 and 0.5 M.

10. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3 to 9~~, characterised in that in step b), the acidification is performed at between 50 and 120°C, and the precipitation is performed by cooling the reaction medium.

11. (Original) Process according to Claim 10, characterised in that, for the precipitation, the reaction medium is cooled to between 15 and 40°C.

12. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 3 ~~any one of Claims 3 to 11~~, characterised in that the stable form of the compound of the formula I is obtained by saponification of the corresponding alkyl ester, followed by steps of acidification, extraction with a water-immiscible solvent, such as an ether or an ester, separation of the phases by settling, evaporation and then crystallisation from a solvent chosen from a lower alkanol, acetonitrile, ethyl acetate, tetrahydrofuran and acetone.

13. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active principle, the metastable form of a compound of the formula I according to claim 1 ~~either of Claims 1 and 2~~, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. (Currently Amended) Use of the metastable form of a compound of the formula I according to claim 1 ~~either of Claims 1 and 2~~, for the preparation of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis and diabetes.